



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY: Additional executive sentenced to prison in bid-rigging case.

Steven M. Biskupic, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced that on April 22, 2005, United States District Judge William Griesbach sentenced a sixth defendant, **Michael J. Maples** of Manitowoc, to 12 months and one day in prison for his role in a conspiracy to rig over 75 bids for federally- and state-funded construction projects awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and other entities. Judge Griesbach also ordered Maples to pay \$150,000 in fines, to pay \$50,000 in restitution, and to spend 1 year on supervised release following his prison term.

In March 2004, a grand jury indicted six defendants – Vinton Construction and two of its executives, James and Michael Maples, as well as Streu Construction and its principals, Ernest and John Streu – for conspiring to rig bids in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. The indictment alleged that the conspiracy began before 1999 and continued until January 13, 2004.

In September 2004, each defendant entered a guilty plea. As part of their plea agreements, the Vinton/Maples defendants acknowledged that Vinton had received approximately \$30 million in contracts that had been the subject of the conspiracy. The Streu defendants acknowledged that Streu Construction had received over \$32.9 million in contracts that had been covered by the conspiracy.

In January 2005, Judge Griesbach sentenced Ernest Streu to 12 months plus one day in prison and Streu Construction to 5 years' probation for their roles in the conspiracy. In addition, Judge Griesbach sentenced John Streu, who had provided assistance to authorities following his arrest, to 5 months in prison plus 5 months of home detention. Judge Griesbach also ordered the Streu defendants to pay a total of \$1.1 million in restitution and fines.

In April 2005, Judge Griesbach sentenced Vinton Construction to 5 years' probation and James Maples to 12 months of home detention. Judge Griesbach determined that James Maples' health situation warranted home detention in lieu of prison. Judge Griesbach also ordered the Vinton / Maples defendants to pay a total of \$1.4 million in restitution plus an additional \$600,000 in fines.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Transportation – Office of Inspector General. The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling and Trial Attorneys Diane Lotko-Baker and Andrew Rosa of the Antitrust Division for prosecution.

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